

SASHTO MULTI-STATE PERMIT GROUP MINUTES – ATLANTA, GA 3/3/2015

8:10 a.m. - The meeting was called to order by Wayne Davis, Group Co-Chairman. He thanked the Specialized Carriers & Riggers Association (SCRA) for allowing the Group to meet as part of their Symposium and SCRA sponsors. Wayne explained that he would be acting as Chair, since Tammy Denning (Chairperson) had retired. At Wayne's request, everyone present introduced himself or herself; there were representatives from most SASHTO states, trucking companies, permit services, and other concerned parties.

8:15 a.m. - The Chair recognized Roland Fischer, who spoke on The Future of Technology and Specialized Transportation. Mr. Fischer is an Area Sales Manager with Scheuerle, part of the TII Group. The TII Group is an international concern that has over 900 employees and is mostly involved in road transportation, but also wind energy, mining, oil and gas, plant construction, shipyard industries, steel, and logistics. Mr. Fischer spoke primarily about his company's specialized trailers.

- Highway Trailer – For long loads. It's 67' to 100' long and 10' wide.
- Dual-Lane Trailer – For heavy loads. Width can be adjusted in loaded condition.
- Highway Giant – This is a hydraulic dual-lane trailer that can be automatically "folded in" or expanded for different widths. Also for heavy loads.
- Highway Superflex – Features a 76' to 116' loading length.
- Self-Propelled (SP) Trailer – Can be remote controlled, pulled at highway speed, or used with push trucks.
- SPMT – This is an 8' wide trailer that facilitates split and widening solutions. It is built "extra strong".

9:00 a.m. – The Chair recognized Chris Smith, AASHTO Freight Policy Manager. Mr. Smith spoke on Emerging Technologies in Freight and Commercial Vehicle Enforcement, specifically dealing with policy implications, highway safety, and operations. Under highway safety, he covered uniform definitions, testing, sales, insurance, liability, privacy, and timing. Other topics were as follows.

- Platooning – This is two trailers blue-tooth linked. Essentially, this allows for two trucks to be controlled by the driver of one of them.
- Intellidrive – The concept in which *intelligent* vehicles communicate with one another.
- Smart Roadside Initiative (SRI) – This includes e-permitting (electronic permits viewable on a tablet, cell phone, etc.), Weigh-In-Motion (WIM: loads may be weighed without actually pulling off onto scales). Mr. Smith commented that the majority of states have deployed SRI, at least in part.
- Cell Modem Communications – The benefits are that it's reasonably priced, fast, and easy. The downside is that it is not a dedicated network and will not work in all areas.

9:40 a.m. The Chair moderated State Updates (changes made or forthcoming since the last meeting) and invited the state representatives present to elaborate. The Updates are summarized below.

- Alabama

- Working with industry to harmonize new regulations.
 - Updating Bentley interface to facilitate auto-issued permits.
- Arkansas
 - 46,000 now allowed on tandems.
 - Bentley system testing currently underway.
 - New rule book coming which will allow e-permits with 7" screen or larger.
- Florida
 - Brandt Information Services was awarded the Permit Office contract (note: the Permit Office in Florida is privatized).
 - The automated Permit Application System (PAS) was released to the public, allowing users to self-issue trip permits up to 12' wide, 14' 6" high, 120' long and 112,000 lbs. GVW.
 - New Overweight Routing Maps were released in September, 2014.
 - Kiosks are being deployed to Florida weigh stations to allow customers to apply for and receive permits. This does not exempt the customer from any penalties.
 - The legal length for Straight Trucks Towing a Trailer was increased to 68' with no legal length limitation on the trailer.
 - FDOT is considering options for Vehicle Specific Blanket permits that customers would be able to self-issue.
- Georgia
 - Effective 1/1/15, escort re-certification is accessible online.
- Louisiana
 - Louisiana Transportation Research Center is conducting a study to determine if fees can be increased and if any permits can be combined.
- Mississippi
 - There is an RFP for a new system.
- North Carolina
 - There is a new Permit Office Director: Vivian Speight-Bridges.
 - There will be permit fee increases in the future (no details yet).
 - Effective 10/15/14, all escort operations are prohibited from using any electronic devices (excluding emergencies).
- South Carolina
 - New system release using Intergraph (software contractor) slated for early part of 2016.
- Tennessee
 - Working to get Phase II Harmonization changes through committees. Once approved, 7 day travel will be granted, travel will be allowed on Good Friday, and escorts will be required for loads more than 90' long.
- Virginia
 - DMV is projected to add Richmond, Virginia Beach, and Henrico County single trip permits by the end of 2015.
 - Bill passed granting 90,000 lbs. for forestry trucks.

- New signage for specialized hauling vehicles.
- West Virginia
 - Annual permits are now truck-specific and may no longer be transferred. These permits may now be self-issued, however.
 - The legal length limit on county routes was raised from 55' to 70'.

10:00 a.m. – Open session closed and a break for state officials

10:20 a.m. – Closed Door Session for State Officials

- Voting
 - Wayne Davis (of Virginia DOT) was elected Chairman
 - Samantha “Sam” Nelson (of Arkansas DOT) elected Co-Chairman
 - Wayne Kessinger (of West Virginia DOT) was re-elected Secretary
- Randy Braden (of Alabama) noted that, in previous years the SASHTO Multi-State Permit Group met twice: once in conjunction with the SC&RA Specialized Transportation Symposium in the spring, and then independently in the fall. He suggested that teleconferencing has essentially replaced the need for a second yearly meeting. Wayne Davis suggested that we have quarterly calls instead, primarily to discuss harmonization efforts. The Group agreed.
- Randy Braden said that the ALDOT website (www.dot.state.al.us) has links to all state Permit Offices.
- Vivian Speight-Bridges (North Carolina DOT) requested that everyone email her the number of permits sold in a year.
- Sam Nelson discussed linking permit systems with C-Vue.
- Bob Alwine (Tennessee DOT) asked about how or if we do voids. Most SASHTO state officials said we will void, but not necessarily refund.
- Randy Braden asked about if, or under what circumstances, we will issue permit amendments. Responses varied widely.
- Wayne Davis led a discussion on oversize/overweight parking and possible pavement damage and infrastructure damage. Most of the Group said that their states have no real policy on this but all agreed that a policy is needed.

11:00 - Adjourned